

App. No. 10/731,597
Amendment Dated May 16, 2007
Reply to Final Office Action of November 16, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended as set forth above. Claims 1-6 are cancelled and new claims 19-24 are added. No new matter has been added.

I. Examiner Interview dated February 26, 2007

An interview was held on February 26, 2007. Examiner Rutledge requested that Figures 13 and 14 of Skonnard be further explained. Figure 13 is code for producing an XML 1.0 document and is not related to an ML schema file. Likewise, Figure 14 is associated with XPath extension functions. XPath allows for search and retrieval of information within an XML document structure. XPath is used to navigate through elements and attributes of the XML document. As more fully set forth below, the features of the independent claims are not taught.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1 and 2 are cancelled. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subjected matter. Claims 1-6 have been cancelled. Claims 7-18 have been amended and applicants believe that the rejection is moot. New claims 19-24 are statutory under 35 U.S.C. 101. Applicants believe that the concerns under 35 U.S.C. 101 have been overcome.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Skonnard, "What's New in MSXML 4.0", p. 1-12, published December, 2001 in MSDN Magazine, available at: <http://msdn.microsoft.com/msdnmag/issues/01/12/xml> (hereinafter "Skonnard").

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Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. Claims 1-6 are cancelled. Claim 7 includes the following combination of features that is not taught or suggested by the cited reference:

calling the ML schema library via an object-oriented message call, wherein the object-oriented message call is configured to modify a ML schema file of the ML schema Library;

passing an object property, associated with the object-oriented message call, to the ML schema library, wherein the object property is associated with a software object associated with functionality identified in the ML schema library;

in response to the message call and the object property passed to the ML schema library, modifying the functionality of the ML schema file identified in the ML schema library; and

associating the modified functionality of the ML schema file with a document to govern the application of ML elements on the document.

Skonnard does not teach or otherwise suggest the above combination of features. Skonnard teaches the new features of MSXML 4.0. *Skonnard*, at pg. 1. The Office Action pulls language out of context from several disjoint portions of Skonnard and attempts to piece it together to argue a cohesive teaching. In the "A New XML Schema API: SOM" section on page 2, Skonnard is teaching that MSXML includes a Schema Object Model (SOM) that is based on W3C XML Schema definition language (XSD) recommendations. The SOM offers a representation to the user for schema definitions in a similar manner that the DOM offers a representation to an XML representation. The SOM is loaded and associated with either SAX or DOM APIs so that validation or reflection can occur. Validation is performed to determine whether the data entered into an XML document is valid according to the schema provided for the XML. The validation process is explained on pages 3-5 of Skonnard. The APIs are used for validation of the XML. With regard to reflection, reflection is used at runtime to discover class information. The class information can be used to determine associated objects that are associated with the class information. The validation and reflection is used in the DOM and SAX APIs. On pages 6-8 of Skonnard, Skonnard teaches XPath. XPath is a language for finding information in an XML document. XPath is used to navigate through elements and attributes of an XML document. There is no teaching in Skonnard that an "object-oriented

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message call is configured to modify a schema file of the ML schema Library." The calls in Skonnard pertain to calls for validation or reflection. Skonnard does not teach that "in response to the message call and the object property passed to the ML schema library, modifying the functionality of the ML schema file identified in the ML schema library." Skonnard teaches validation, reflection and navigation of XML. Modification of a schema file is not discussed. As such, Skonnard cannot possibly teach "associating the modified functionality of the ML schema file with a document to govern the application of ML elements on the document"

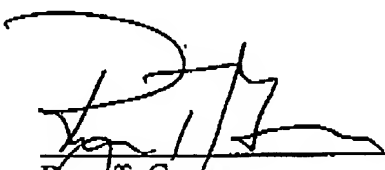
With regard to claims 8-18, claims 8-18 depend from claim 7. As such, they should be found allowable for at least the same reasons set forth for claim 7. Claims 19-24 are new and include allowable features. Accordingly, applicants assert that all of the claims are in condition for allowance.

V. Request for Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicants at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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